



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2011
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Melvin Smith
800-659-8726*(304)345-2200
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

CHARLESTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL OXYCODONE CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Robert Butterworth, 19, of Charleston, pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver, Jr., to aiding and abetting the distribution of oxycodone. Butterworth admitted that on February 4, 2010, he arranged the sale of 50 oxycodone 80 milligram tablets to a confidential informant working with the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT). Prior to the arranged drug transaction, the defendant advised the informant that his source of supply only had 42 oxycodone pills. After meeting with the informant outside of the defendant's Charleston residence, Butterworth admitted that his pill source arrived in a vehicle and the two got inside the vehicle. Agents subsequently approached the vehicle during the drug transaction and the defendant was arrested. A baggie containing 42 green tablets marked "OC" "80" was seized from the driver's side of the vehicle. The 42 pills were submitted to the West Virginia State Police lab and proved to contain oxycodone.

Butterworth faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on August 24, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Metropolitan Drug Enforcement Network Team (MDENT). Assistant United States Attorney John Frail is in charge of the prosecution.

This case was prosecuted as part of an ongoing effort led by the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of West Virginia to combat the illicit sale and misuse of prescription drugs. The U.S. Attorney's Office, joined by various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, remain committed to aggressively pursuing and shutting down illegal pill trafficking, eliminating open air drug markets and curtailing the spread of opiate painkillers in communities across the Southern District.

###

KANAWHA COUNTY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Ronald Truman, 47, of St. Albans, Kanawha County, pleaded guilty today before United States District Judge Thomas E. Johnston, to possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. The defendant admitted that he knowingly possessed three firearms and ammunition at his St. Albans residence on November 30, 2010. The firearms traveled in and affected interstate commerce prior to being possessed by the defendant in November 2010. At the time Truman possessed the firearms, he had been convicted of third offense DUI (felony) in the Circuit Court of Kanawha County on or about August 28, 2001 and his right to possess a firearm had not been restored.

Truman faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced on September 7, 2011.

The investigation was conducted by St. Albans Police Department. Assistant United States Attorney Monica Schwartz is in charge of the prosecution.

###

TWO WOMEN PLEAD GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

HUNTINGTON, W.Va. – Two women pleaded guilty today in federal court before United States District Judge Robert C. Chambers, to federal drug charges. Crystal Nash, 23 of Detroit pleaded guilty to distribution of crack cocaine and Sarita Lee Emery, 45, of Huntington pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting the distribution of a quantity of cocaine base, also known as “crack.” Nash admitted that on August 13, 2010, she arrived at the Smokin’ Aces store, which was located in Huntington. Nash further admitted that while at the store, she handed a baggie of crack cocaine to an undercover agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) in exchange for \$600 cash. At the time of the drug transaction, Nash was accompanied by Emery. Nash also admitted to telling the undercover agent that she could sell additional crack cocaine and that any future purchases would have to be arranged through Emery. The crack cocaine was tested at a Drug Enforcement Administration laboratory and revealed that it was in fact cocaine with a weight of 7.8 grams. Nash also admitted to participating in three additional sales of crack cocaine at the Smokin’ Aces store that occurred between August 13, 2010 and August 17, 2010. Emery admitted to participating in five additional sales of crack cocaine - two as an aider and abettor and three as the actual distributor - between August 13, 2010 and September 9, 2010.

Nash and Emery both face up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when they are sentenced on October 3, 2011.

This case is being prosecuted as part of a yearlong undercover operation that targeted illegal drugs and firearms crimes in the Huntington area. The operation was led by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) and assisted by the U.S. Attorney’s Office, the Huntington Police Department, and various other law enforcement agencies. It was announced to the public in March after a grand jury returned indictments against 55 defendants.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) conducted the investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McVey is in charge of the prosecution.

###